

4th Annual HHMSC Essay Contest: ***"We, the Youth..."***

The Nebraska Latino American Commission and other members of the Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration Planning Committee invite Nebraska youth to participate in the 2010 Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest. The theme for the contest is: *"We, the Youth..."*

Middle and high school students are encouraged to write about their experience to their access to education and venue for civic engagement as an essential outlet for today's youth empowerment in Nebraska. We value the cultural independence and responsiveness to community participation that is cross-generational. We believe it's an essential way to promote sustainable long-term community building; free of ageism. We'd like to hear your story.

Eligibility: All Nebraska public school students within the 6th and 12th grade.

Entry: The contest will begin September 1, 2010 and ends on September 20, 2010. The essays must be submitted along with an entry form (see attachment). Winning entries will be recognized at the Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration scheduled for October 8, 2010 at the Nebraska Capitol Rotunda, second floor of the State Capitol, from 3:30 P.M. – 5:00P P.M. The Nebraska Latino American Commission will reserve the right to publish the winning entries on its website (www.latinoac.nebraska.gov) and/or publications affiliated with the Commission. Entries are welcome in both English and Spanish. Spanglish will not be accepted, we apologize.

Deadline: All due in by September 20, 2010 at 5:00 PM. Entries submitted via email after 5:00 P.M. will not be accepted. Entries sent as hard copies through the postal service (regular mail) received on and/or after September 21, 2010 will not be accepted regardless of postmarked date; so please take time into consideration when mailing your entry.

Submission: By email to latino.info@nebraska.gov, via fax at 402-471-4381 or by regular mail to:

Nebraska Latino American Commission
Attn: Eric Gonzalez Alfaro, PIO
PO Box 94965
Lincoln, NE 68509-4965

Rules: The essay must be original content. Legible handwritten essays are accepted, blue or black ball point pen only. Typed essays are to be written in 12pt Times New Roman with black font color, double spaced. The essay must relate to the theme. Word count: Grades 6, 7 and 8 must be between 200 – 250 words; Grades 9 – 12 must be between 350 – 500 words.

Judges and Judging Criteria: Entries will be judged based on writing style, grammar and content by:

Ricardo Ariza – Creighton University Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs

Lourdes Gouveia – University of Nebraska at Omaha – Office of Latin/Latino
American Studies Director and Professor, Sociology

Blanca E. Ramirez-Salazar – Nebraska Partnership Specialist – U.S. Census Bureau

Awards: Three awards per category will be given in the form of Savings Bonds.

Jr. High Category: Grades 6 – 8, \$150 (First Place); \$75 (Second Place); \$50 (Third – Place).

Sr. High Category: Grades 9 – 12, \$150 (First Place); \$75 (Second Place); \$50 (Third – Place).

Entry Form
4th Annual Nebraska Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest

THEME: "We, the Youth..."

Student's Name _____ Student's Grade _____

Student's home
address _____

Student's home phone number _____

Parent/guardian first and last name (no signature required) – PLEASE PRINT

Essay Title _____
(If different than the theme)

***NOTE:** Required information if essay was written as a part of a class assignment.

*Name of School: _____ Phone Number: _____

*Address of School: _____

*Name of Teacher: _____

*Teacher E-mail address: _____

For Questions: Contact the Nebraska Latino American Commission at (402) 471-2791 or by e-mail at latino.info@nebraska.gov

Entry Submission: All need to be in by September 20, 2010 at 5:00 PM. Entries submitted via email after 5:00 P.M. will not be accepted.

By regular mail and/or fax: September 20, 2010 at 5:00 PM. Entries received on or after September 21, 2010 will not be accepted regardless of postmarked date; so please take time into consideration when mailing your entry.

Electronic entries must be sent to latino.info@nebraska.gov or via fax at (402) 471-4381

Entries can also be submitted by regular mail to:

Nebraska Latino American Commission
Attn: Eric Gonzalez, PIO
PO Box 94965
Lincoln, NE 68509-4965